



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Board of Supervisors

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July 6, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: David Sanders, Ph.D.
Director

APRIL 26, 2005 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #22: REFUGIO PARA NIÑOS MONTHLY REPORT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has been charged with providing monthly reports on the Refugio Foster Family Agency (Refugio) to the Board. In previous monthly reports, we assessed Refugio's level of compliance with their corrective action plan. The April 2006 report reflected Refugio's decision to terminate its contract with the County to provide foster care services. A copy of the letter to the Contract Administration Section within DCFS, Community Care Licensing (CCL) and Foster Care Rates Bureau initiating the process of terminating the Contract for convenience was provided to the Board. This report will focus on addressing this issue, which outlines the activities for May 2006.

PLAN OF ACTION

On June 7, 2006, Refugio's CEO submitted a letter to the OHCMD reporting that letters to both Community Care Licensing (CCL) in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties had been submitted requesting revocation of its license to each county respectively. Additionally, Refugio's CEO reported that the agency will not officially surrender its license to CCL Orange County until the office is incorporated under its new non-profit license and name. At this time, it is unknown when this process will be finalized, but it is anticipated that it may take up to 90 days. A copy of Refugio's letters are attached (Attachments I, II and III).

Up to this date, CCL Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties have not revoked Refugio's license.

COUNTY AND STATE CONSIDERATIONS

Termination of LA County Contract and Relinquishment of License with the State of California: On June 12, 2006, Refugio's CCL Orange County Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) was contacted and she reported that the new agency has filled out the paperwork to change the agency's name and it will be given a new license number. It was reported that the process could take up to 90 days.

On June 15, 2006, the Contract Administration Section within DCFS reported that the Board Deputies were briefed with regard to terminating Refugio's contract with DCFS. Additionally, it was reported that a draft letter terminating Refugio's contract was submitted to County Counsel for their review; once approved, the letter will go to the Chief Administration Office (CAO), which in turn will file the document with the Board, and it is believed that it will be on the July 18th Board's agenda. A final determination will be made in three weeks thereafter.

Refugio's certified homes and foster children: There are 14 certified foster parents attached to the Orange County Office, but no Los Angeles County DCFS children are placed in those homes.

CONCLUSION

At this time, Refugio's date of official closure remains uncertain. Although there are no Los Angeles County placed children under Refugio's supervision, Refugio has not officially surrendered its license to CCL and its contract has not been terminated. We will update the Board in a final report, which will be submitted in July 2006 as to Refugio's progress to terminate its County Contract with our Contract Administration Section and towards termination or relinquishment of licensure with Community Care Licensing.

If you have any questions please call me, or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Board Relations Manager at (213) 351-5530.

DS:LP:ES
EH:dv

Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Auditor Controller
County Counsel
Board of Supervisors Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT I

**Refugio Para Niños****Foster Family Agency**

June 7, 2006

Dario Villamarin
Out of Home Care Management Division
Fax # 626-572-2363

Dear Dario,

Please find these letters officially surrendering our LA County and San Bernadino County licenses, which according to Mr. Zertuchie of CCL were in effect surrendered when we vacated those spaces. As you will note, I am not surrendering the Orange County License as yet for reasons previously discussed. However since the Orange County Office does not have a contract with LA County DCFS and has no intention of seeking one, I don't believe their operation should effect you or your oversight responsibilities in any way. Ms. Canul is working with both Orange County CCL and Department of Children's Services openly and with their full cooperation. They are aware of her current operation and it's circumstances. I am certain she will let you know in writing when her the Name Change and new license number for the Orange County office are in place.

Sincerely,

Gayle Thomas
Executive Director (Past)

Cc Roland Navarro, CFO RPN
Mike Brown, Board of Directors

ATTACHMENT II



Refugio Para Niños

Foster Family Agency

June 7, 2006

Angelica Lopez
Community Care Licensing
1000 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 200
Monterrey Park, California

Dear Ms. Lopez,

Please accept this notification that we are surrendering our Los Angeles County License # 191592815 effective immediately. Both our LA County and San Bernadino County offices were vacated as of May 1, 2006 in effect terminating those licenses, according to my understanding in talking with our analyst Peter Zertuchie.

I'd like to thank you for your help in arranging for storage of our terminated files. It was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gayle Thomas
Gayle Thomas
Executive Director

Cc Dario Villamarin, Out of Home Care
Peter Zertuchie, CCL

ATTACHMENT III

**Refugio Para Niños****Foster Family Agency**

June 7, 2006

Norma Pliar-Lopez
Community Care Licensing, San Bernadino County
Fax # 951-782-4967

Dear Ms. Lopez,

Please accept this official notification that we are surrendering our License for the FFA facility at 9125 Archibald in Rancho Cucamonga. That office has been vacated since May 1, in effect voiding it's license.

Refugio Para Ninos has terminated both it's contract with LA County and San Bernadino County Children's Services and is no longer operating.

Thank you for your assistance over the past few months. I know I speak for both Adrian Sanchez and myself in saying it was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gayle Thomas
Gayle Thomas
Executive Director